

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

April 3, 2008

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jennifer Ayala
Jerelyn Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Michael Singleton
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Laurie Burgett-excused
Mick Hager-excused
Andrew Kahng-excused
Mike McDowell

Staff Present

Kathleen Hasenauer
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2008 MEETING
(STEELE /SINGLETON 6-0)**

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Marisa Quiroz of the San Diego Foundation informed the Committee that the San Diego Foundation Board of Governors has approved the name change of the Balboa Park Endowment Fund to the Balboa Park Trust. A press conference to announce the name change is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 18 at 2:00 P.M. in front of the Bea Evenson Fountain.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported the Balboa Park Trust is working with City staff on the Balboa Park Trails Project to come up with trail signs that are consistent in design with existing park signs. Maps for the gateway kiosks were discussed. The clarity of the map and incorporating surrounding communities into the trail system were identified as issues which needed to be resolved.

At the March 2008 Park and Recreation Board meeting a presentation was made by Nancy Graham of the Center City Development Corporation. The presentation identified future parks for the downtown area with Pershing Park being identified on the map. The identified Pershing Park location is currently the City's Operations yard at 20th and B Street. This parcel of property is actually within Balboa Park and will revert back to being part of Balboa Park when it is developed into a park.

Park and Recreation Board policies are currently being reviewed to determine if any updates are necessary. Park signage, advertisement and naming rights are topics of interest.

STAFF REPORT

Jeffery Tom thanked the Balboa Park Committee for hosting the first Governance Study meeting and acknowledged the entire committee for their efforts and participation.

Jeffery thanked the Committee of 100 and City staff for their role in the completion of the tile project at the Alcazar Garden. A ceremony was hosted on Friday, April 7 to celebrate the completion of the project.

Kathleen Hasenauer, Deputy Director reported that Sunset Magazine rated Balboa Park the number one urban park in its April 2008 issue.

On Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8, Copley Plaza adjacent to the Old Globe Theatre will be closed for the removal of a Sugar Gum Tree (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*). Copley Plaza will be closed to all pedestrian traffic on those dates while a private contractor removes the tree. Access to the Old Globe Theatre will be limited to Old Globe Way. The tree is the last of seven large Sugar Gum Trees planted in Copley Plaza. Independent Registered Consulting Arborists recommended removal due to the decline in health of the tree and a safety hazard posed to the public.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager reported that The San Diego Civic Dance Association is currently in the process of taking registration for Summer Dance Camp. The Camp will be offered for the weeks of July 28- August 1 and August 11 - August 15.

Currently the Greater San Diego Science fair is be hosted at the Balboa Park Activity Center. The last day of the event will be Saturday, April 5.

The month of April has many special events scheduled: April 5 the Walk for Recovery, April 6 Bark in the Park, April 12-13 the Thursday Club Rummage Sale, April 12 Woofstack, April 19 Nani Walk, April 20 Earthfair, April 26 Shakespeare Student Festival and April 26 March for Babies (Dimes).

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported that Ranger staff along with the California Conservation Corps recently completed a clean up project on the slope behind the San Diego Auto Museum.

The cleaning of the Lily Pond water filtration system has been completed. A different cleaning technique was used this year which allowed the water to remain in the pond and no fish were impacted.

City staff is currently in the process of restoring the turf around the Lily Pond and the area will be roped off until early summer.

The over height vehicle sensors for the San Diego Museum of Man Pedestrian Bridge have been installed. Currently the installation contractor is waiting for electrical conversion parts to make them operational.

The Friends of Balboa Park donated 21 trees that were planted in the turf area at the War Memorial Building. This was part of an Arbor Day ceremony that was held on March 11. The trees consisted of three California Coast Redwoods, eleven California Sycamores, and seven Western Cottonwoods.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Study

Vicki Granowitz opened the meeting up for public comments about the study. No public comments were made. Vicki reported that the meeting hosted on March 8 with the authors of the study was well attended and that there was about two hours of public comment. The meeting was video taped and can be seen on the City's web page. Vicki then opened up the meeting to committee and staff member comments.

Committee Member Comments

- A baseline of information needs to be established with existing conditions as it relates to the City/Park & Rec. and Public Non-Profits.
- Copies of hierarchical documents that specify roles, responsibilities and constraints of the various entities in the Park are needed. Especially as they pertain to the governance and management of Balboa Park.
- User based revenue resources need to be explored for the funding of Balboa Park such as; SANDAG, TOT, State Grants, Federal Grants and User Fees.
- There was an impressive turnout for the March 8 meeting and in all of the public comments at no time did anyone mention that we don't need a new government structure for Balboa Park.
- '09 City Budget was discussed along with the Environmental Growth Funds and its future potential uses.
- April 30 at 6:00 P.M. the Park & Rec. proposed budget will be heard by City Council in Council Chambers.

- The Ad Hoc Committee is looking into speakers for future Balboa Park Study meetings. There is interest in bringing out representatives from Forest Park to speak about their model of governance.

402. San Diego Museum of Man Education Center

Paul Jacob, Associate Civil Engineer introduced David Marshall of Heritage Architecture & Planning. David presented the proposed tenant improvement project which would provide an additional 612 square feet of classroom space, remove non-historic walls in the two east exterior archways and replace them with a new wood storefront entrance that will more closely reflect the open appearance of the 1915 archways, and provide disabled access to the facility. The project has gone before the sub-committee of the Historical Board and follows the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Committee Member Comments

- The color of the wood storefront and window coverings were discussed.
- The project provides a transparent view and disabled access to the building which makes this a great improvement and project.

403. Review of the San Diego Lunar New Year TET Festival, February 8-10

Larry Tran distributed a written review of the event and gave a presentation of the event and the challenges they encountered with parking and traffic management. Larry stated that traffic impacted shuttle service, that the use of City College parking lot should have been pursued to a greater level, and that the original traffic control company retained for the event cancelled at the last minute thus impacting their ability to effectively mitigate traffic. The event with regards to attendance was extremely successful.

Committee Member Comments

- The event overall was successful with attendance but traffic and parking was a problem.
- The size and success of the event may make it too big for Balboa Park.
- Other venues should also be considered based on the fact that the 2009 proposed event already has a scheduling conflict.
- It was requested that the event be brought back to the Committee with clarification on scheduling conflict with Circus Vargas.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Pershing Drive at Jacaranda Place- New striping configuration- Ty Palusky

A map handout was distributed showing the existing street configuration and striping. The proposed project would improve safety by changing the street striping to reduce the distance required to cross the intersection which has traffic crossing at a high rate of speed.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NEW STRIPING CONFIGURATION AT PERSHING DRIVE AND JACARANDA PLACE. (STEELE/SINGELTON) 6-0

Special Events

301. ESRI International User Conference – Proposal to hold a private special event with food, beverages and entertainment on Thursday, August 7, 2008 from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. The proposal requests the use of the South Carousel Parking Lot as a food and beverage area and the Spanish Village Parking Lot for catering. Perimeter fencing will be placed from the north side of Village Place to the south side of Zoo Place, not including the North Carousel Parking Lot. The San Diego Zoo and Spanish Village Arts Center are partners with this event. Coach type shuttles will transport patrons to and from the event. Estimated attendance is 10,000 people.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO OPPOSE THE ESRI INTERNATIONAL USER CONFERENCE EVENT DUE TO IT BEING PROPOSED DURING THE SUMMER MORATORIUM (STEELE/KINNEY) 6-0

302. CowParade San Diego – Proposal for a public art exhibit featuring fifty life-sized fiberglass cows that have been designed by local artists. The cows will be placed in various locations throughout the park for ninety days, January 3, 2009 to April 1, 2009. They will be mounted to a concrete base and placed so as not to obstruct pedestrian traffic. At the end of the exhibit, the cows will be auctioned to benefit charitable organizations. Cows are also being exhibited in other places throughout the city and county during the same time period.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE IN CONCEPT THE COWPARADE SAN DIEGO ART EXHIBIT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED WHICH PROVIDES FINAL DETAILS OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT. (STEELE/KINNEY) 6-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. Balboa Park West Advisory Group- Alyssa Wolven reported that the first meeting of the BPWAG was hosted on April 2 at the Balboa Park Redwood Bridge Club and about 60 people attended the meeting. Representatives from City Councilmember Atkins and City Councilmember Faulkner's office attended the meeting. The committee is looking forward to strengthening the relationship with neighbors and the operations of the west side of the park.

Committee Member Comments

- The intent of this Sub-Committee is to advise The Balboa Park Committee on issues within the boundaries of the West Mesa.
- This committee is not intended to conflict in anyway with the Mobility Plan of the Uptown Planning Group

COMMMTTEE MEMBER REPORT

Jeri Dilno reported that she was elected to the Kensington/Talamadge Planning Committee

David Kinney representing Small/Mid-size Institutions announced that the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System is providing a bus that will soon be removed from active service to be painted with a Balboa Park Goes Green message. Children will paint the bus with different green theme pictures and messages. The bus will then be coated with a sealer and put back into service for a period of time.

Jennifer Ayala representing the Center City Advisory Committee reported that the Children's Museum Park will be opening in May. Also that the Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge is going out for re-bid.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, May 1, 2008
5:30 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Hasenauer